(c) The 9th Five Year Plan outlay is yet to be finalised and the targets are yet to be fixed.

Fencing of Indo-Pak Border

*246. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fencing of border with Pakistan along Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat has been completed;

(b) if not, the present position thereof, sector-wise;

(c) the obstacles being experienced in this regard;

(d) the action being taken in the matter; and

(e) by when this work is likely to be completed particularly in Jammu and Kashmir sector?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (e) The present position regarding fencing on Indo-Pak border is as under:—

PUNJAB

In Punjab, fencing/flood lighting work of 451 kms/465 kms. was started in May, 1988 and completed in November, 1993. The entire border, except certain gaps which could not be taken up due to being rivering/low lying area, was fenced/flood lit.

RAJASTHAN

Out of total border of 1035 Kms. fencing/flood lighting has been completed in 720 kms/739 kms. Further, fencing/flood lighting along 312.60 kms. in Jaisalmer Sector has also been sanctioned. 145 kms. of this will be completed in Phase IV by 31.12.97, 131 kms in Phase V by 31.12.98 and remaining in Phase VI by 31.12.99.

GUJARAT

Due to sessonal inundation, no fencing in Rann area is possible. However, the feasibility studies for ditch-cum-bund and erecting modified type of border fencing suitable for such terrain are being carried out by CPWD and BSF. The Water Wing of BSF has been augmented by induction of speed boats, medium crafts etc. Proposal to augment Coast Guard's infrastructure to strengthen coastal patrolling and security all along the coastlien is being processed by Ministry of Defence.

JAMMU

The question of the fencing of International Border in Jammu sector is under active consideration of the Government.

Construction of Missing Link of Darbhanga — Forbesganj Road

*247. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that construction of Darbhanga-Forbesganj road as a part of lateral road project from Bareilly (U.P.) to Aminganj (Assam) for upgradation of National Highway included in the Bihar Development Package Programme was required to be taken up during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal at present; and

(c) whether Government had received communications from Members of Parliament about the urgency of the construction of Darbhanga-Forbesganj link road; and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) The State Govt. of Bihar had forwarded the proposal for declaration of Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga-Forbesganj-Purnea road as

National Highway. Communications were also received from Members of Parliament in this regard. However, this could not be declared as National Highway so far due to paucity of funds.

लखनऊ में टेलीफोन सलाहकार समिति का गठन

*248. **श्री राजनाथ सिंह सूर्य:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) टेलीफोन सलाहकार समिति के गठन की प्रक्रिया, उसका कार्यकाल तथा विनिर्दिष्ट सदस्य संख्या क्या है;

(ख) लखनऊ में टेलीफोन सलाहकार समिति का गठन कब हुआ था और इसमें कुल कितने सदस्य थे;

(ग) क्या ये सभी सदस्य सदस्यता संबंधी अर्हताएं पूरी करते थे, यदि हां तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है, और यदि नहीं तो उक्त समिति में ऐसे सदस्यों को नाम-निर्देशित करने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) प्रत्येक सदस्य की ओर टेलीफोन बिलों की कितनी-कितनी राशि बकाया है?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) टेलीफोन सलाहकार समिति का गठन दो वर्ष की अवधि के लिए मुख्यमहाप्रबंधकों/महाप्रबंधकों/संसद सदस्यों/विधायकों से प्राप्त सिफारिशों तथा सीधे दूरसंचार विभाग (मुख्यालय) राज्य/संघ शासित राज्य तथा टेलीफोन जिलों में प्राप्त अभ्यावेदन/सिफारिशों तथा साथ ही विभिन्न प्रयोक्ता वर्गों, जैसे सार्वजनिक कार्यकर्त्ताओं, इंजीनियरों, चिकित्सकों, व्यापारियों वाणिज्यिक क्षेत्र आदि के व्यक्तियों का प्रतिनिधित्व देने की आवश्यकता को ध्यान में रखते हुए किया जाता है। प्रत्येक टेलीफोन सलाहकार समिति के सदस्यों की विनिर्दिष्ट संख्या आयुक्त में दी गई है। [देखिए परिशिष्ट 180, अपत्र सं० 44]

(ख) लखनऊ टेलीफोन सलाहकार समिति का गठन जून, 1995 में किया गया था। इस समिति के सदस्यों की कुल संख्या 70 है।

(ग) जी, हां। लखनऊ टेलीफोन सलाहकार समिति के सदस्य निम्नलिखित निर्धारित किसी न किसी श्रेणी से संबंधित हैं, जो इस प्रकार है:—

1. राज्य विधान मंडल—दो (2) प्रेस—पांच (3) कानूनी व्यवसाय—दो (4) सार्वजनिक कार्यकर्ता एवं अन्य—इकसठ

(घ) प्रत्येक सदस्य की ओर बकाया टेलीफोन बिल की राशि का ब्यौरा विवरण में दिया गया है।

Indians killed by Srilankan Navy

*249. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian nationals, including fishermen were killed in the Indian ocean by Srilankan Navy in the recent past;

(b) if so, the number of such casualities in lst three years, year-wise; and

(c) whether matter has recently been taken with Srilankan government; if so, the outcome of such talks?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) Incidents of violence and detention faced by the Indian fishermen in the Palk Straits arise when they stray into Sri Lankan territorial waters and some times move close to the coast of the shores where conflict is raging. The Government received reports about 14 incidents of shooting at Indian fishing vessels in the Palk Straits resulting in the death of 6 fishermen in 1994, 12 incidents of shooting resulting in the death of 9 fishermen in 1995 and 19 incidents of shooting resulting in the death of 10 fishermen in 1996. The Sri Lankan Navy acknowledeged its involvement in incidents resulting in the reported deaths of 2 fishermen in 1994 and 5 fishermen in 1996, while denying their inolvement in all incidents reported in 1995.

India protests at every incident of violence against its fishermen and has emphasized to the Government of Sri Lanka the need for restraint in dealing with fishermen.

The External Affairs Minister during his recent visit to Sri lankan (January 19—22, 1997) discussed the problems faced by Indian fishermen with the Sri Lankan foreign Minister and conveyed